

you will attribute my course neither to fickleness, nor to any want of a proper appreciation of the kind exertions of my friends.

Before I conclude, I wish to make a remark personal to yourself. I did hope that your public conduct, admirable in all that becomes a Senator, would gain for you the approbation of every member of the Whig party, at least; but such is not the case. I have learned from authentic sources that there is a strong disposition to run Judge B—r against you,—and what do you think is the charge against you, why—prudence!! excessive prudence, degenerating into selfishness, for fear of compromising yourself. I know of but one other instance of Prudence being considered a blemish, viz: Gen'l Lee, when rebuked by Gen'l W. for his retreat at the battle of Monmouth, replied that he had been taught by his Excellency some of that "rascally virtue called Prudence." But, "Nullum numen ab est, si sit Prudentia." You are not at liberty to mention the foregoing information in connection with my name—it might compromise me. You see that I, too, have learned a little prudence.

If the hint I have given you shall occasion uneasiness, rather than impart desirable information, I shall regret having given it, and can only plead friendly concern for your political interests.

There is but little news at this place. The Institution has resumed its operations, under more favorable auspices than were anticipated at the end of the last Session. We have nearly 170 Students.

The President will make a Northern tour in the beginning of the fall,—Prof. Roberts retires in October, and the Rev. Mr. Deems⁹³ is to come into the Faculty, with the title of Assistant Prof. of Rhetoric. . . .

The foregoing, printed pages will, I hope sufficiently explain themselves.

I am with sentiments of exalted regard, & warm friendship,

Your obliged humble Serv't

⁹³ Charles Force Deems (1820-1893), a native of Baltimore, graduate of Dickinson College, a Methodist minister, who came to North Carolina as an agent of the American Bible Society. He was a professor in the university, 1842-1848, and at Randolph-Macon College, 1850-1851, held pastorates, and taught in several places. In 1865 he went to New York, and established and edited *The Watchman*, a newspaper designed to promote reunion, and was pastor of the Church of the Strangers. He was a prolific writer. He was instrumental, through his intimacy with Mr. Vanderbilt, in the founding of Vanderbilt University.